



# THE GRANITE BELT NATURALIST



Monthly Newsletter of the  
Stanthorpe Field Naturalist Club

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## OFFICERS OF CLUB FOR 1991-92

President	Kris Carnell	835268
Vice-Presidents	Rob McCosker	835371
	Jean Harslett B.E.M.	833185
Secretary	Desley McDonagh	813074
Treasurer	Julia Brown	
Newsletter Editor	Margaret Carnell	835268
Newsletter Sub-Committee	Val White & Dore McCosker	
Publicity Officer	Frank & Patience James	811853
Librarian	Esme Colley	812927
Management Committee	President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer.	

Meetings: 4th Wednesday of each Month at Q.C.W.A. Rooms at 8 p.m.

Outings: The Sunday preceding the 4th Wednesday of each Month.

Annual Subscriptions: Single \$8.00 Family \$15.00 per annum July to June

Rent: Donation per family per meeting.

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## SCALE OF DIFFICULTY FOR WALKS ON NATS OUTINGS

1. Flat walking road or track.
2. Road or track gentle hills.
3. Track some hilly sections
4. Track some steep sections
5. Cross country easy open forest, gentle slopes.
6. Track steep section common, with steps.
7. Cross country some hills, some thick undergrowth.
8. Cross country steep section with scrambles over rocks etc. Some thick undergrowth.
9. Cross country steep, hilly, rough, thick undergrowth.
- 10 Mountain climbing, hard going, higher level of fitness or plenty of time required.

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## AIMS OF THE CLUB

1. To study all branches of Natural History.
2. Preservation of the Flora and Fauna of Queensland.
3. Encouragement of a spirit of protection towards native birds, animals & plants.
4. To assist where possible in scientific research.
5. To publish a monthly newsletter and post it to members.

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## ADDRESS CHECK

Could all members please check that their address is correct, and if not notify the secretary immediately.

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MOOGERAH DAM CAMPOUT 21/22 MARCH, 1992

On Saturday, 26 people found their way to Lake Moogerah Caravan Park (without owing up to any difficulties) to join two lucky Friday people at this very pleasant spot beneath young pines and silky oak, near the water's edge.

After lunch, while some chose to relax/swim/or feed the fish, fourteen followed Reynolds Creek for about one kilometre on its way through the gorge, below Moogerah Dam wall. The unusually deserted lower picnic area, with its swimming holes and callistemon/poplar/oak and willow lined banks, gives way to the mostly clear, sloping rock wall side of Little Mt Edwards. Two rocky shutes indicate the paths of what must be spectacular water slides during heavy rain, and the pile of rock diverting the creek at the base of a third chute, betrays the thinness of the soil, and loose rock supporting the vegetation, which has mostly shown remarkable recovery from its dead appearance just three and a half months ago.

Retracing our steps and crossing the dam wall, from the base of which the spray of water from the outlet was releasing an unpleasant sulphurous smell but capturing a rainbow or two, we made a somewhat testing climb to the Mt Edwards Gorge Lookout. Opposite and above the aforementioned rock slide, it also rewarded us with views down the gorge to a somewhat hazy Kalbar and Peak Mountain. The descent was judged much easier, and, for some, ice creams at Caroline's replaced the usual cuppa.

A pleasant evening was enjoyed around the communal campfire - wood courtesy of Fred; damper courtesy of the Marsdens; light courtesy of the moon.

On Sunday morning, twelve people left camp for the challenge of Mt Greville, to find Narelle and David waiting patiently at the carpark. After a short climb, we dropped into the cool chasm of Waterfall gorge, where a small pool of beautiful clear water was plumbed for depth. Water levels were low compared with a month ago, but the drier rock underfoot enabled fast progress up through the mini-forest of piccabeen palms and their accompanying ferns, mosses, lichens and orchids. These were in stark contrast to the open eucalypt/brush box forest and hot conditions at the top of the gorge.

A short walk took us to a lookout point with magnificent views of the rocky face of Mt Greville and the "splinters" of rock on its northern side; Lake Moogerah, and Mt Alford with its "Pillarbox". Contouring through the understory of acacias and blackboys brought us back to the track, which we followed to the summit, parts of the Main Range being glimpsed on route. Trees generally restrict the views, but there is a ledge offering a good aspect to the north.

Lunch, at the top of the southern gorge, was curtailed by raindrops, and encouraged by developing storms, we made a rapid descent to the south-east ridge to the carpark, unable to do justice to the panorama of the Main Range, from Mt Huntley around to Mt Barney, with Mt Maroon visible over the Mt Moon/Alford saddle.

Peter Kerr

The less energetic members of the party set off to drive to Spicers Gap. Unfortunately when we reached the gate it was locked and a barbed-wire fence had been erected on the other side of it. We found out later that the National Parks Rangers had been mustering wild cattle from the National Park.

Nothing daunted, we turned around and headed for Mt French. After a pleasant drive we had morning tea and walked to two lookouts. One carload went home from here via White Swamp. On the way back to Lake Moogerah the rest of us stopped to quench our thirst at the Dugandan Pub, which had the unusual attraction of



## Moogerah Dam Campout contd.

stocking over 40 brands of beer. We offered to come back in a week to pick up those who wanted to sample them all, but no-one took us up on the offer, so we headed for the Mt Alford store and art gallery. Some indulged in ice cream again even though it was almost lunch time.

No sooner had we arrived at camp than it started to rain, so we had lunch under canvas, watching some spectacular lightning and worrying about the people on Mt Greville. Fortunately the shower didn't last long and we were able to pack up quite quickly and head for home.

All in all it was a most enjoyable weekend.

Margaret Carnell

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# MINUTES OF THE MARCH MEETING OF THE STANTHORPE FIELD NATURALIST CLUB INC. HELD IN THE C.W.A. ROOMS, STANTHORPE ON WEDNESDAY 325th MARCH, 1992.

Opening: President Kris Carnell opened the meeting, welcomed all present, particularly Arthur Woolley, Lincoln McPhee and guest speaker Jack Bennie.

Present: and apologies as per attendance book.

Minutes: The minutes of the February meeting were accepted as a correct record of that meeting on the motion moved by Frank Wilkinson, seconded by Herb Colley and carried.

## Correspondence:

- Inward:
1. Australia Post - account for private box
  2. BHP - Innovations in steel
  3. Queensland Naturalists Club - Newsletter.
  4. Chinchilla Field Nats - "Urimbirra" (Newsletter - Feb & March)
  5. Richmond Valley Naturalists - Newsletter.
  6. Darling Downs Naturalists - Newsletter.
  7. Family Art Network - Invitation to join.
  8. Toowoomba Bushwalkers - "Footprint".
  9. Australia Post - Registration of magazine.
  10. New World in Concert - advertising material.

- Outward:
1. 40S - Round the Ridges - notes for broadcast.
  2. Radio 963 Toowoomba - " " "

Essley McDonagh moved and Jean Harslett seconded the motion that the inward correspondence be received and the outward adopted. Carried.

Kris Carnell advised that he had applied for a grant from the Department of the Environment - letter - November meeting - for a photo copier, but had not had any response.

## Treasurer's Report: 26/2/92 - 25/3/92

Balance as at 26/2/92 603.13

### Receipts:

Subs	8.00	
Room Rent collect.	7.85	
Change Postage	2.55	
Bring 'n buy	1.20	19.60
		<u>622.73</u>

### Expenditure

Room Rent	10.00	Petty Cash	15.00
Magazine Duplicat.	6.00	Total Expend.	61.00
Magazine postage	30.00	Bal at 25/3/92	\$561.73



Treasurer's Report contd.

Accounts to be passed for payment: Room Rent - \$10.00; Magazine Duplication - \$6.00; Magazine Postage - \$30.00; Post Office Box Rental - \$37.00; Photo Copy paper (K. Carmell) \$7.95.

Julia Brown moved and Esme Coley seconded the adoption of the Treasurer's Report and the payment of the accounts. The motion was carried.

Outing report: Ray Marsden read the report of the camp-out at Moogah Dam written and forwarded by Peter Kerr. All those members attending enjoyed themselves. Ray also gave a report of those who went on an alternative outing on the Sunday morning.

Pre-outing: President Kris reported that Colin Hockings would be doing the pre-outing to Poverty Point in time for the information to be in the next magazine.

Fred Simpson will fill in with a programme for April - topic: Flying Acroas Australia and Fraser Island.

Specimens: Lincoln McPhee had a bird's nest - it was a spinebill's nest. Jean Harslett had the skeleton of a baby bird which had choked on a piece of oversize food - it was found at Watuk Creek.

Management Committee meeting: President Kris advised that there is need for a meeting of the Management Committee at 7.30 p.m., before the next monthly meeting on Wednesday 29th April. The magazine will need to be discussed. Name tags for club members will also be discussed, following a suggestion from the meeting.

Programme: Ray Marsden introduced Jack Bennie who shared with us a wonderful experience with an audio-visual programme on the Cacto-basius moth and followed this with one on Lawn Hill National Park. The members were very appreciative of the excellent programme and showed this appreciation with acclamation. THANK YOU JACK BENNIE!!!!

OUTING 26TH APRIL

Destination - The Waterfall on Racecourse Creek, Girraween National Park.

Rating: 5 to 10.

Depart Weerona Park 9.00 a.m. sharp.

Drive via Eukiey to the white gate on the Racecourse Creek Rd - High clearance vehicles are required for the east couple of kms, people will be able to leave their cars at the Girraween turnoff and transfer to utes and 4WD's. We will have morning tea at the white gate then walk along the service tracks to a crossing on Racecourse Cr, then follow it downstream to the falls for lunch. This part is the hating, 5 section, about 8 kms return - for those a little more energetic, we will continue to follow a gully upstream to West Bald Rock, along a really delightful babbling mountain stream. This gully is quite overgrown and requires a lot of scrambling but is well worth it, even if only for a short distance. If time and energy! still permit we will climb West Bald Rock then follow the track between it and Middle Rock back to the Racecourse Cr crossing. We left before lunch, then return to the cars.

Please contact me on 835371 if you are coming so we can arrange transport.

Rob McCosker (Leader)

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I would rather sit on a pumpkin, and have it all to myself than to be crowded on a velvet cushion.

Henry David Thoreau (1817-62)



The following is a poem which Fred Simpson found whilst exploring in the Carnarvon Gorge.

Her tribe has vanished with daughters and sons  
 All her people lie under the sand  
 Nothing to prove that she'd ever lived  
 But the faint outline of a stensilled hand  
 In earthed ochre or charcoal line  
 So many caves with the same mute sign.  
 I trace the shape with a pensive finger  
 Why do I linger  
 An ancient sadness chills this place  
 That's why I stop and pause.  
 Dark sister without name or face  
 I place my hand on yours.  
 The long unmeasured years divide us  
 Too late too late for meeting  
 But in this quiet forsaken cave  
 Hands touch in greeting.

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# WASTE LAND PRODUCES BLOOMS IN S.A.

Two years ago, faced with the problem of what to do with waste industrial land at Port Adelaide, the Council of the City of Port Adelaide decided to get into cut flower growing.

They established a 30 ha native plant farm and export facility on what was a petroleum products tank farm. A variety of 53,000 Australian native flowers suited to coastal conditions are being grown.

Owned and funded by the City of Port Adelaide, the project is managed by International Horticulture Management, which is headed by Dr Brian Freeman.

As well as making use of a difficult site, the council aimed to supplement its income and to address a social concern by providing employment and retraining opportunities for people in the area.

Because of environmental difficulties posed by the site, all plants are grown in bags, filled with sand and standing on weed control mat. Windbreaks have also been needed, to protect the flowers from damaging winds as well as reduce salt intake.

Dr Freeman estimates one million blooms will be harvested this year for export to Japan, US and Europe.

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 March 1991 with permission.

## COMING EVENTS

April 29th	Programme	Fred Simpson	Flying over Australia
May 24th	Outing	K & M Carnell	Wellington Rock
May 27th	Programme	B. & N. Dodd	America
June 21st	Outing		Environment Day
June 24th	Programme	Jean Harslett	
July 19th	Outing	R. Marsden	Half Moon
July 22nd	Programme		Remember Last Year.

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If you want to appear agreeable in society you must consent to be taught many things you already know.

Johann Casper Lavator (1741-1801)